

# Genesee Country Express

Livingston County's Watchful Newspaper

Vol. 56 No. 14

Dansville, N.Y. 14437

Thursday, Jan. 12, 1990

12/31/99  
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
30 CENTER ST.  
GENESEE, N.Y. 14454

## Speaker Urges Design for Economic Growth

While making a number of recommendations for improving economic conditions in the Dansville area, Dr. David Martin of Genesee State University urged the community to work with Livingston County to develop an economic development plan for the area.

Martin, professor of economics, John Wiley Jones School of Business at Genesee State University College, spoke to nearly 150 persons during the "Future of Dansville" dinner sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce at Brae Burn Recreation. He was introduced by Robert Matthews, Chamber president.

The program is one of three jointly sponsored by the Chamber with the Business Association and the Dansville Economic Development Corp. The first session was held in December. The third, a community-wide meeting, will be scheduled later this winter.

Out of the sessions that have been held with representatives of the three groups, a Dansville Economic Steering Committee has been formed with Donald Bartalo, Dansville Central Schools superintendent, named acting chairman. The committee adopted as its purpose the continued growth and improvement of the community.

Bartalo, in his remarks to Saturday's gathering, said the committee sees "two major things we have to do. One is education ... we need to help people understand what has happened. The second is planning (for the economic future)."

He said the committee will meet soon to set priorities, establish short goals and recommendations and develop "some possible actions for accomplishing those recommendations."

Martin, author of a paper, "The Livingston County Economy in Transition: Potential Prospects, Problems and Solutions," outlined Dansville's economic position in

relation to the county, to the state and nation. He cautioned that Dansville and Livingston County are not to be thought of in isolation. "We need to remember that we are a part of a greater entity and as a result, the kinds of things that happen here are, to a great extent, going to be determined externally ..."

Dansville and the county are a part of New York State, the one "with the highest tax burden in the United States ... it is a reality that we have to live with," the speaker said. He noted that the tax burden continues to rise "especially at the local government level."

Outlining the county's position in the Rochester standard metropolitan area, he said the county is "part of a region of New York that has the highest dependence on manufacturing employment ..." in New York and the northeastern part of the United States. "Livingston County economy is dominated by manufacturing."

Martin said Dansville ranks fourth highest in the county in terms of the percentage of the labor force employed in manufacturing and it "ranks number one in terms of being dependent on manufacturing." He noted that is in face of the fact that the nation and world is going through a process of deindustrialization — the percentage of the labor force employed in manufacturing is going down.

While deindustrialization has descended on the Rochester area, "it has yet to come to Livingston County," but Martin stated it is "a very real problem for us."

The speaker outlined the strengths of the county. He said the growth of manufacturing in the county is a plus; a quarter of the county labor force is employed in government; agriculture is being transformed from family farms to agribusiness; and Livingston County has a govern-

ment that it can live with.

On the weakness side, Martin said the county is part of the industrialized northeast portion of the United States subject to possible manufacturing shut downs; the county is one political entity, but it is really two economies: the northern portion the most prosperous and the southern portion depressed; it is rural with a small population and a growth of only about 200 persons annually; it has a relatively poor population, the lowest per capita income of any counties in the Rochester metropolitan area; the county has a "sagging, small service sector."

"I think that we (Livingston County) have two potential economic problems," Martin said: Growth in the northern portion of the county and, more seriously, deindustrialization, it could happen in Dansville, the speaker warned. With that will be job displacements and decline in tax revenues.

Martin said the time to protect the county and Dansville is now. "I think the time is right ... to adopt a pro-active stance in Livingston County ... to recognize the reality that deindustrialization can happen."

Noting that the county Board of Supervisors has allocated funds for a county economic development office, "whoever comes into the county to take this position is going to have a monumental task at hand for there is nothing in place at this time," but he noted that local economic development groups, such as that in Dansville, "can provide a network of local people to generate the kind of consensus that will be necessary for this county to take."

"I think ... the strategy for Dansville, (is) to look pragmatically to what you can do on your own. I think the answer is, realistically, you cannot do a hell of a lot ... You do not have in place the kinds of sites that would attract business firms to this area ... it



**EXAMINATION** — Dr. David A. Martin, professor of economics at Genesee State University College, goes over a copy of his study on Livingston County prior to his talk before about 150 persons Saturday during the Dansville Chamber of Commerce dinner at Brae Burn Recreation. Shown above (from left) Robert Matthews, Chamber president; Robert Goins, president, Dansville Economic Development Corp.; James Yost, president, Business Association; Martin; Donald Bartalo, acting chairman, Dansville Economics Steering Committee.

has got to be ... prohibitively expensive in terms of the kinds of infrastructure that you would have to put in place, sites, roads, sewers, other kinds of things that would be necessary. It seems to me to be much more sensible that Dansville would adopt a strategy that would be part of a county strategy," the speaker stated.

He noted there are some actions that could be taken. "One of the things, I think you can do, is to make a very zealous effort to preserve what you have. Too often economic development efforts focus entirely on bringing in new business firms," and not focusing

on those businesses that are in place.

He said the community should hold down expenditures to keep property tax rates from escalating and work to improve the service sector and "try to take advantage of the fact you are approximate to what is perhaps the best tourist attraction in this region, a totally unused and underutilized tourist attraction ... there are things that you can do ... primarily you are going to have to work with Livingston County to help develop an economic plan that will include industrial relocations in Dansville."

"I think that the strategy for Livingston County is to develop such a plan in conjunction with a county planner, development office and local community groups ... The time is clearly right for bringing together the players in the game and trying to create from the resources that we have a Livingston County economic development plan ... I think, as a practical matter, we're going to have to pay our own way and that probably means a bond issue for infrastructure for Livingston County. It's a pretty radical idea, but I think it's something to be talked about. I think the time to talk is now ..."

## New Hospital Payment Procedures for Noyes

Passage by the state legislature of a new hospital reimbursement schedule was signed by Governor Mario Cuomo last week.

The measure is designed to help control spiraling inpatient care costs and ensure proper medical treatment to all state residents.

But passage of the bill was not without months of wrangling between legislative leaders and the health and insurance industries. The plan determines how much hospitals can expect to be reimbursed for care they provide.

A companion to the measure signed by the governor establishes a committee to determine how the state can assure universal health coverage by providing basic medical services for about 2.5 million New Yorkers who are either uninsured or underinsured because of soaring premiums.

Assemblyman John W. Hasper of Belfast noted that last year Governor Cuomo vetoed similar legislation. He said the compromise is supported by the Hospital Association of New York State, the New York State Association of Counties and Blue Cross.

He stated, "It was critical that the Legislature address this issue first thing in the new session in order to put in place a uniform financing system developed by elected representatives of the state's residents. Such authority cannot be left to the state Department of Health."

The new reimbursement method is retroactive to Jan. 1 and effective through Dec. 31, 1990.

The new plan will reimburse hospitals for patient care based on "Diagnosis Related Groups (DRG)" similar to the federal Medicare system. The established base cost for each DRG is for treatment of specific ailments or diseases, Hasper stated.

He said, "Payments are calculated according to a percentage of the hospital's actual cost, estimated length of stay, level of care, and average regional prices, and are made directly to hospitals for services rendered."

"Medicaid, Blue Cross and HMOs (Health Maintenance Organizations) will pay the same rate per DRG," said Hasper.

The legislation also includes a section on patient's rights and helps alleviate fears that hospitals might be tempted to release patients prematurely since the lump sum reimbursement will be

the same regardless of length of stay, according to Hasper.

He added, "This legislation standardizes the cost based on admission or diagnosis. The fixed cost is closer to what a hospital stay might cost and should be an incentive for hospitals to make their operations more cost-efficient."

"Certain protections are adopted for a more extensive discharge review program to ensure that adequate, quality care is still provided and to prevent early discharge of patients," Hasper said.

"Patients have the right to a written discharge plan, written notice of admission and discharge policies, and right to independent review of discharge," Hasper said.

Richard S. Warren, chief executive officer at Noyes Memorial Hospital, noted that hospitals across the state have strongly supported the efforts of the Legislature in the passage of the bill.

He noted that through the Hospital Association of New York State, hospitals have been work-

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### Arson Blamed In Area Fire

Fire officials are continuing their investigation into the blaze which destroyed the last locktender's house on the old Genesee Valley Canal off Route 36 in the Town of West Sparta early Monday morning.

Livingston County Fire Coordinator David Harter said arson was the cause, as there was no electricity connected to the structure and no heat in the building which was home to a canal locktender in the 1842-1878 period.

The house is owned by Sandra Weimar who purchased it last fall and, after consultation with the Dansville Area Historical Society, said she would preserve the building.

The fire was reported by a passing motorist shortly before 2:30 a.m. Monday. The building was engulfed by the time volunteers from the Dansville and West Sparta departments arrived.



**REPLACEMENT** — North Dansville Town Highway employees last week removed a 3,000-gallon gasoline storage tank at Dansville Municipal Airport. The 40-year-old tank is to be replaced by a larger 5,000-gallon container. In upper photo, the town front-end loader moves the container after it was taken from the ground the north end of the hangar. The new tank will take its place in the large open ditch at that location. The tank will hold a supply of gasoline for airport traffic. Town Highway Superintendent Richard Fournier said the new container is on order and expected to be delivered in February.

## Zoning Officer Reports

Village Zoning Enforcement Officer Richard J. Applin reported his activities for the period of Dec. 14 through Jan. 6 when the Dansville Board of Trustees met last week.

Summarizing his work, Applin said he issued five building permits, collected fees of \$190. He said he denied three applications and forwarded them to the Town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, and he issued six Certificates of Occupancy (C of O) and Certificates of Compliance (C of C).

A break-down of activities consists of:

to construct a new home at 7 Shutt St.; declined application to Deo Hurlburt for apartment house at 32 West Ave. with necessary forms forwarded to the Planning Board and the Appeals Board; issued C of O's to Faulkner Apartments at 236 Main St., 18 Dock St. and for 93 Ossian St.

Applin declined the application of Livingston Mutual Insurance Co. for construction of new office on N. Main St. with necessary forms sent to the Planning Board and Appeals Board; issued permit to Lee Chamberlin for renovation work at 117 Franklin St.; issued C of C to Noyes Memorial Hospital

for basement area.

Also, issued permit to Nancy and Tom Case for new fence at 33 Seward St. on west side of property line and declined a permit for a fence on the east side of the Case property with necessary forms sent to the Planning Board and the Appeals Board; issued C of C for "Slender You" at 117 Franklin St. and issued a permit for a fascia sign at 117 Franklin St.; issued permit to Phil Muecher for renovation of building (former Big M store) at plaza on West Avenue and Jefferson Street; issued a C of O to Mike Blum of 24 Quay St. for wood stove and chimney.

